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Freeway to become parking lot

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Well, congratulations to the Arizona Department of Transportation for deciding to build the world's biggest parking lot.

By ADOT's own computer models, in three of four of the projected situations, the 55th Avenue alignment performed worse for moving traffic than not building any freeway at all. Guess which alternative moved the most traffic?

I, along with others, have worked very hard for a number of years to help plan Laveen. I am not so disappointed in the fact that this will split our community in two, but that ADOT picked the worst possible alignment in terms of traffic flow.

The 55th Avenue alignment might cost less to build, but what about the increased costs in terms of wasted fuel, increased pollution and lowered productivity? The extra money to build the freeway for the Loop 101 connection pales in comparison to these longer-term costs.

Building the freeway to connect at the 101 and developing 59th Avenue into a major arterial/scenic parkway would cost less in the long run and be more efficient while encouraging higher-end development of Laveen's village core.

While Tolleson would have taken a big hit (to which we are not unsympathetic), the large businesses that might have been affected would be better able to withstand the trauma of relocation better than the myriad of small business that will be displaced or eliminated by the 55th Avenue alignment. **-Steven L. Klein, Laveen**
The writer is chairman of the Laveen Planning Committee and vice president of Laveen Citizens for Responsible Development.

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